

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 remain in the application, claims 11-18 are canceled, and new claims 19-20 are added.

5 New matter rejection

In view of the objection to the paragraph added after line 3 on page 5, it is deleted. Applicants' attorney notes that there is no support in the specification as filed for the word "preferably." Accordingly applicants have deleted this paragraph. At the same time, applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art, upon reading the application as filed, would understand
10 that the balance of the deleted paragraph is clearly implicit in the disclosure.

The object of the invention is to provide an inexpensive and simply constructed auxiliary part for shaving attachments. By means of the auxiliary part these attachments can be removably provided on or around a shaving head, simply and quickly.

It will be clear to those of ordinary skill that two classes of attachments can be added to an
15 electric shaver. The first is those which modify or improve the shaving process performed by the shaver. These are shaving attachments. The result is still an electric shaver. The second class is those which change the function of the apparatus, so that with the attachment the apparatus is converted to a hair cutter. In that condition, because of the additional space between the outer cutting member and the user's skin, shaving is not possible, and this second class of attachments is
20 shaver attachments. The combination is no longer an electric shaver, but is a hair cutter.

Everything in the application as filed relates to a shaver with attachments used for shaving. This clearly is the invention which the applicants possessed. Accordingly the specification and claims are amended to state expressly that the attachments are shaving attachments.

25 Art rejection - US 4,888,870 (hereinafter "Fujikawa")

To the extent that the rejection over Fujikawa might be maintained against amended claims 1, 3, and 8, reconsideration is requested because nothing in Fujikawa teaches nor suggests a part which a user can fasten to or remove from an outer cutting member.

Applicants respectfully traverse the statement on page 4 of Paper No. 08042004 that
30 "Fujikawa discloses ... an element (23), which can be snapped onto an outer cutting member (21)

by its one side”

Regarding the connection between the outer cutting member or shearing foil 21 and the ring frame 23, the Fujikawa specification merely says, “The cutting head 20 includes a circular outer shearing foil 21 with a number of perforations which is held on a ring frame 23 detachably mounted on the top of the cutting head 20.” In this sentence, “detachably” refers to the relationship between the ring frame 23 and the top of the cutting head 20. When the ring frame is removed from the cutting head 20, the foil 21 and ring frame come off together. In order to understand the teaching of Fujikawa more fully, one must look to the drawings.

Although one must look closely at Figs. 5A, 5B, 6, 7A, 7B, 10, 18 and 23 to see the critical details, it is clear that the lower portion of the outer cutting member or foil 21 or its alternatives has a flange extending radially outwards, and the resin or plastic material of the ring frame 23 or its alternatives extends upwardly around the interior as well as the exterior of the flange region. This is also shown clearly in the enlarged copy of Fig. 4, attached as appendix A, where at the left side the interior side of ring 23 is in part a wider line which extends obliquely up to the right past the corner of the flange, and then extends obliquely to the left to the inside surface of the cylindrical portion of foil 21. No conceivable deformation of the ring frame 23 could cause it to snap onto the cutting member 21 in any of these embodiments.

In the other cross-section figures (e.g., Fig. 11) it is very clear that the cutting member could never be made to snap into that position.

One of ordinary skill in the shaver art would expect such a construction, because the outer cutting member is must be quite thin, and therefore is easily deformed. The function of the ring frame 23 is to provide a relatively rigid support to the edge of the cutting member, and to allow the user to pull upward on the ring frame in order to remove the frame and cutting member together for cleaning without ruining the cutting member. To achieve this configuration, the cutting member is usually supported by a jig or die while the ring frame is cast or molded around the flange or lower portion of the cutting member.

Accordingly Fujikawa does not anticipate the claimed invention.

Art rejection - US 4,003,390 (hereinafter "Solie")

To the extent that the rejection over Solie might be maintained against amended claims 1

and 2, reconsideration is requested because nothing in Solie suggests an auxiliary part for mounting shaving attachments.

Solie teaches attachments for converting a shaver into a hair cutter. This is discussed summarily in the second and third paragraphs of the Summary of the Invention. With any of those
5 attachments mounted, the apparatus cannot be used for shaving because the outer cutting element is too far from the user's skin.

Solie also teaches that these hair cutting adapters can be adapted to be used in multiple (Abstract; Fig. 2 and corresponding text), but the first adapter clipped onto the razor already converts the razor into a hair cutter.

10 The term "auxiliary part" as defined in the instant application clearly means a part which is auxiliary to the shaving process. With the attachment the combination is still a shaver.

More particularly, Solie teaches a plurality of guide elements arranged respectively for use with a two head rotary shaver or a rectangular reciprocating shaver. In each case the guide element mounts on a frame or mounting surface which is separate from the outer cutting member. This is
15 shown clearly in Fig. 3, where rotary blade mechanism 13 is spaced some distance from the end surface of the housing 12 and the circumferential surface of the unnumbered part below the blade mechanism 13.

The rotary head shaver 11 has an oval head perimeter whose shape matches the shape of the guide elements 17 and 18, which may be identical. Each guide element has clips for engaging
20 the head of the razor or another guide element, so that for cutting hair to a shorter length only one guide element is clipped onto the razor (Fig. 3), while for cutting hair longer one guide element is clipped onto the razor and a second guide element is clipped onto the first (Fig. 1), or as shown in Fig. 2 the two guide element are clipped together before mounting. Fig. 1A shows a variation of guide element which is tapered in depth in the long direction, while Fig. 1B shows a guide element
25 which is tapered in depth in the shorter direction.

Fig. 4 shows a rectangular guide element 71 mounted on the rectangular head 72 of a reciprocating cutter electric shaver. The side walls 73, 74 of the guide element clip onto or snap into depressions or grooves 77 "normally present along the sides of the razor head." Examining
Fig. 4 closely, one of ordinary skill will recognize that 6 outer cutting members are shown, three to
30 each side of a central skin guide, and that the depressions 77 are not present in the outer cutting

member but rather in a non-slitted skin guide surrounding the cutter structures. Furthermore, the distance from the clips 76 at the bottom of the guide element 71 to the top of the guide is much greater than the distance from the depressions 77 to the outer cutting member, so that the guide 71 will space the outer cutting member quite far from the user's skin, thus making shaving impossible.

5 Like the Figs. 1 and 2 embodiment, two rectangular guide elements can be stacked on each other, using depressions 78, but no one of ordinary skill would call either one "an auxiliary part ... for removably fastening an attachment." They are stackable cutting guides.

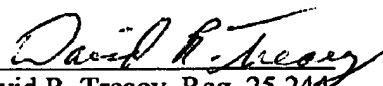
10 Accordingly, because Solie does not teach nor suggest an auxiliary part for shaving attachments, or such a part snapped onto an outer cutting member, claims 1 and 2 are patentable over Solie.

Obviousness rejection - Fujikawa

15 To the extent that the rejection of claim 2 might be maintained, reconsideration is requested because for all the reasons given with respect to claim 1.

20 Accordingly, all the rejected claims are shown to be patentable. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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